



**U.S. Department of Justice
Community Relations Service**

Washington, D.C. 20530

January 4, 2017

Beryl C.D. Lipton
MuckRock
Dept. MR 23046
P.O Box 55189
Boston, MA 02205-5819

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear Ms. Lipton:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request that the United States Department of Justice Department (DOJ) FOIA Mail Referral Unit referred to the Community Relations Service (CRS) dated September 1, 2016. Your original request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on December 21, 2015 was for "all files, communications, reports, memos, directives, and any other materials regarding civil rights activist Ozell Sutton" The FBI identified 21 pages of documents as having originated from CRS, and requested CRS to review the documents and respond directly to you.

Under the FOIA, CRS must make available requested information to you to the greatest extent possible. There are exemptions under the FOIA, which allow the government to withhold information that otherwise would be responsive to your request. 5 U.S.C. § 552(b).

CRS has asserted the following two exemptions:

- (1) 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(3) which permits the government to withhold information that is specifically exempted from disclosure by statute, 42 U.S.C. §2000g-2(b); and
- (2) 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6) which permits the government to withhold personal information affecting an individual's privacy "when the disclosure of such information could constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), CRS' enabling statute states:

The activities of all officers and employees of the Service in providing conciliation assistance shall be conducted in confidence and without publicity, and the Service shall hold confidential any information acquired in the regular performance of its duties upon the understanding that it would be so held. Any officer or other employee of the Service, who shall make public in any manner whatever any information in violation of

this subsection, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year.
42 U.S.C. § 2000g-2(b).

Thus, under its governing statute, CRS conciliators shall conduct their work in confidence, and without publicity. CRS conciliators are required to inform parties accepting conciliation services that communication between the parties and CRS conciliators is protected and held in confidence.

Accordingly, under exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(3), CRS is withholding seven pages in full, and releasing 14 pages with redactions under exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6).

If you are not satisfied with my response to this request, you may administratively appeal by writing to the Director, Office of Information Policy (OIP), United States Department of Justice, Suite 11050, 1425 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530-0001, or you may submit an appeal through OIP's FOIAonline portal by creating an account on the following web site: <https://foiaonline.regulations.gov/foia/action/public/home>. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of my response to your request. If you submit your appeal by mail, both the letter and the envelope should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

I hope the CRS has been of some assistance to you in this matter. You have the right to seek dispute resolution services from CRS or the Office of Government Information Services at <https://ogis.archives.gov/?p=/ogis/index.html>.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions at my email address
Irene.kho@usdoj.gov.

Sincerely,



Irene Kho
FOIA Officer



Department of Justice

ADVANCE FOR RELEASE AT 6:30 P.M. EDT
MONDAY, JULY 1, 1974

The Community Relations Service (CRS), the only Federal agency created expressly to conciliate and mediate racial and ethnic conflicts, observes its 10th anniversary tomorrow, July 2.

Established by the Civil Rights Act of 1964, CRS began operations with a task force of 18 people borrowed from other agencies. It presently consists of a staff of 103 which assists communities through regional offices located in 10 of the Nation's major cities.

CRS Director Ben Holman announced that the anniversary is being observed at a dinner sponsored by friends of the agency at the Sheraton Park Hotel in Washington, D.C. Vice President and Mrs. Gerald R. Ford are the honorary chairpersons of the dinner. Attorney General William B. Saxbe and Senator Edward Brooke are the honorary vice chairpersons.

Established at the height of racial confrontation in the South during the 1960's, CRS responded overwhelmingly to crises there in its first year of operation. Sixty-five percent of the communities assisted were in nine southern States. However, the amount of time devoted to racial

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[Signature]

conflicts in other parts of the Nation increased rapidly, after the Watts tragedy in 1965. In fiscal 1973, for example, 60 percent of the communities receiving CRS assistance were outside the South.

Holman said that the number of conflicts CRS responds to annually also has increased substantially. "In our first year we had 213 requests for assistance and actually aided 120 different communities. In fiscal 1973, we handled 589 such alerts and helped resolve 284 confrontations," he said.

Originally CRS was in the Commerce Department, but was transferred to the Department of Justice by Presidential request on April 22, 1966.

Unlike many Federal agencies, CRS has no law enforcement function. It seeks to help communities resolve conflicts stemming from racial and ethnic discrimination under the Constitution and laws of the United States.

The CRS Director said that of the changes over the years in the agency's approach to its job, perhaps the most significant is the increased emphasis now placed on mediation as a means of settling racial conflicts. Since March 1972. CRS mediators have helped work out binding, written agreements in a variety of problem areas, including public schools, colleges, and even correctional institutions. "There isn't a more dedicated group in the Federal establishment than the CRS staff," Holman said.

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Holman said that in light of such tragedies as Attica--where 41 inmates and guards died in 1971--mediation is a promising means of dealing with confrontations in correctional institutions. CRS has mediated settlements at Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola, Jefferson Parish (La.) Jail, Kansas State Penitentiary at Lansing, and is currently engaged in mediation at correctional institutions in Georgia and Washington State.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS SERVICE

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I. General Information

Purpose of Agency

The Community Relations Service (CRS) is an agency of the U. S. Department of Justice. It was created by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to help communities cope effectively with "...disputes, disagreements, and difficulties relating to discriminatory practices based on race, color, or national origin...."

CRS provides technical assistance to both State and local governments and community groups. The agency does not enforce laws, regulate practices, or grant funds for programs. Its primary activities involve employing various techniques of persuasion to help defuse tensions and conflicts within communities. CRS' goal is to help bring about rapid and orderly socioeconomic progress for all American citizens.

II. Assistance Defined

The two fundamental services which the CRS provides are conciliation and mediation.

Conciliation, as defined by the CRS, is the injecting of third-party skills and resources into disputes, difficulties, or disagreements to avoid, minimize and/or remove violence, offer alternatives to involved parties and influence actions or reactions toward peaceful resolution.

Mediation is defined as a technical process, more formal than conciliation, in which a third-party intermediary has sanctions from the disputants and assists the conflicting parties in reaching a mutually satisfactory settlement of their differences, preferably with self-enforcing, built-in mechanisms.

III. Crisis Involvement - Methods and Criteria

A. Conciliation

CRS provides conciliation assistance to communities in crisis in two basic ways:

- (1) When the agency determines on its own initiative that assistance is needed; or
- (2) At the request of State or local officials or of local citizens or organizations, both public and private, with a legitimate interest or stake in the outcome of the dispute.

The criteria on which the agency makes the decision whether or not to respond are determined by answers to these three primary questions:

- (1) Does the assessment of circumstances indicate that the difficulties are likely to be effectively influenced by conciliation?
- (2) Are there resources available, other than those of the CRS, which could have significant bearing on successful resolution of the dispute?
- (3) Is there a reasonable likelihood that an agreement, once consummated, can be promptly implemented?

B. Mediation

CRS provides mediation assistance in a community crisis via three basic routes:

- (1) Upon judicial referral when the court feels there is a reasonable likelihood a dispute can be voluntarily settled through mediation;
- (2) On its own initiative when the CRS determines that mediation assistance is needed; and
- (3) At the request of State and local officials and public and private local citizens or organizations with a legitimate interest or stake in the outcome of the dispute.

To provide mediation services, the criteria which must be satisfied are:

- (1) Satisfactory determination that the nature of the difficulties rest within the agency's legislative mandate and are compatible with its responsibilities under existing policy;
- (2) Availability of agency personnel to perform the required assignment;
- (3) Assessment of the circumstances indicate that conflicting parties are--or appear to be--willing to accept and facilitate mediation, a reasonable possibility that permanent settlement can be reached; and, once consummated, the agreement can be expeditiously implemented.

Although the Community Relations Service is authorized to intercede in a community dispute based upon the agency's own initiative, a request for assistance is virtually implicit in every case to which it responds.

IV. The Crisis Response System

The systematic approach to crisis response begins when an alert is called in by someone who knows of CRS and its mandate or a CRS staff person gains first-hand knowledge of a crisis. At the appropriate regional or headquarters office trained professionals gather pertinent facts needed to determine whether or not the agency should respond. (This is generally done through a telephone assessment, but on occasion, circumstances will justify or require an on-site assessment.)

The kind of facts needed include answers to these questions:

What happened - who is involved and what caused it?

Did the conflict result from long-standing grievances or in response to a particular issue or event?

What law enforcement agency (or agencies) is involved?

Are there lines of communication between officials and protestors?

What is the reaction of local officials toward the protestors and vice versa?

What demands, if any, are being made by the dissidents?

Is anyone doing anything about it?

The people who provide answers to these questions are State and local officials, law enforcement heads and personnel where involved, business and professional leaders, members of the minority community, and civil rights and human relations organizations. The facts gathered are analyzed on the basis of the history of the problems causing the conflict, the potential for escalation of tension or for violence, and the probability that CRS assistance can help solve the problems.

Upon completion of the assessment, the CRS professional presents it along with a recommendation to respond or not to respond. A positive decision results in the dispatch of a CRS conciliation team to the crisis site.

V. CRS Conciliation Activities

Paramount to successful settlement of contemporary conflict issues is the need for an outside source to provide an independent perspective upon which adversaries can mutually depend for detached observation, objective judgment, and balanced responsiveness. Conciliation efforts of the CRS team include such roles and activities as:

- . continuing assessment of the situation as a neutral third party
- . facilitating communications between disputants so that issues and opposing viewpoints are perceived and examined
- . arranging and/or convening meetings between the adversaries
- . helping disputants identify and enlist resources which have a bearing on resolution of the conflict identifying and verifying leadership roles between disputants

- . consulting and advising with law enforcement officials to reduce the likelihood of confrontation or violence when inflammatory conditions prevail
- . intervening in conflicts between and within ethnic/racial groups to seek solutions to such discord
- . assisting adversaries to understand the nature of conflict crisis, and protest, and to overcome inhibiting stereotypes
- . helping to formulate and apply constructive internal disciplinary procedures (self-policing systems) in the planning and execution of protest activities involving large numbers of participants
- . providing a Federal presence in critical situations in which there is a useful purpose served by on-the-scene observation - such as demonstrating a major concern for a particular problem and assuring timely and active Federal involvement should changing circumstances dictate.

After appropriate resolution of its conciliation effort, the CRS team tries to get State, local, Federal, and private resources involved in follow-up activities intended to eliminate or minimize the potential for such future crises in that community.

VI. CRS Mediation Activities

The CRS introduced mediation service as a pilot program during 1973.

In less than a year, the agency successfully completed eleven mediation cases, three of which were referred by the courts--two corrections-related cases and one education-related case.

In mediation, the CRS brings disputants and interested parties together for positive action. Specific activities of the mediator include:

- . establishing recognition by the parties of opposing negotiation spokesmen and participants

- . chairing negotiation sessions
- . presenting and clarifying the issues and establishing priorities
- . arranging for an appropriate mechanism with which to assure followup implementation of agreements reached
- . discussing affirmative steps to prevent and meet future problems
- . persuading parties to maintain a "good faith" posture and to move toward realistic settlement goals.

VII. Structure for Rendering Assistance

CRS has 10 regional offices which are staffed by two to five mediators and conciliators. These professionals are supervised by a Regional Director.

The recommended access point for anyone wishing to receive CRS assistance is the Regional Director for the specific area, as listed in the next Section.

VIII. Technical Assistance Contacts By Region.

Exemption b(6)

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<u>Region</u>	<u>Regional Director</u>	<u>Address</u>
I. <u>New England</u> Me., Vt., N.H., Mass., Conn., R.I.	Lawrence Turner [REDACTED]	JFK Federal Building Government Center Room 608-B Boston, Mass. 02203
II. <u>Northeast</u> N.J., N.Y., P.R., V.I.	Edward O'Connell [REDACTED]	U.S. Customs & Court House, Room 3400 26 Federal Plaza New York, N.Y. 10007
III. <u>Mid-Atlantic</u> Pa., W. Va., Md., Va., D.C., Del.	Edmond Haywood [REDACTED]	U.S. Customs House Room 309 2nd & Chestnut Streets Philadelphia, Pa. 19106
IV. <u>Southeast</u> Ky., Miss., Ga., S.C., Tenn., N.C., Ala., Fla.	Ozell Sutton [REDACTED]	75 Piedmont Ave., N.E. Room 900 Atlanta, Ga. 30303
V. <u>Midwest</u> Wis., Minn., Mich., Ill., Ind., Ohio	Richard Salem [REDACTED]	55 E. Monroe Street Room 1440 Chicago, Ill. 60603
VI. <u>Southwest</u> La., Tex., Ark., Okla., N. Mex.	Maurilio Ortiz [REDACTED]	Federal Building Room 13B-35 1100 Commerce Street Dallas, Tex. 75202
VII. <u>Central</u> Kans., Iowa, Nebr., Mo.	John Perez [REDACTED]	Federal Building Room 112 601 E. 12th Street Kansas City, Mo. 64106

<u>Region</u>	<u>Regional Director</u>	<u>Address</u>
VIII. <u>Rocky Mountain</u> Colo., Utah, Wyo., Mont., N. Dak., S. Dak.	Leo Cardenas [REDACTED]	Main P.O. Building Room 278 1823 Stout Street Denver, Colo. 80202
IX. <u>Western</u> Calif., Nev., Ariz., Hawaii	Julian Klugman [REDACTED]	100 Mission Street Room 703 San Francisco, Calif. 941
X. <u>Northwest</u> Wash., Oreg., Idaho, Alaska	Robert Lamb [REDACTED]	Federal Office Building 909 First Avenue Room 6007 Seattle, Wash. 98104

Additional information about the Community Relations Service may be obtained by visiting the Public Information Office, 550 Eleventh Street, NW., Washington, D. C., or by writing to the Community Relations Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530.